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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AGENCY

1942 AGRICULTURAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM--INSULAR REGION

HANDBOOK FOR PUERTO RICAN FARMERS

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U. S. Department of Agriculture

During the past six years agricultural conservation programs have assisted Puerto Rican farmers in carrying out recommended soil conserving and improving practices in connection with their regular operations. Each succeeding program has been formulated from the experiences of previous programs and the recommendations of farm organizations, in order to assure the attainment of a well-rounded program of agricultural conservation to fit local needs. Formulated under the provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act, these programs were made to conform as nearly as practicable to the program for the continental areas.

However, the trend of world events has so affected the vital trade channels between this Island and her normal sources of supply of essential materials that a complete economic adjustment is necessitated in order to meet the demands for greater self-sufficiency in the future.

The foremost problem arising from the restriction of imports is that of creating adequate stores of essential foods. Such an endeavor would not be possible without the wholehearted cooperation of the farmers. On their shoulders will fall the task of adjusting their production to fulfil the requirements of an emergency diet for sustaining the civilian population. This will involve an extensive diversion of land to the production of food crops. Such a program must necessarily be accompanied by the employment of adequate soil conserving and improving methods in order to prevent widespread losses of soil resources.

Consequently, the 1942 Program includes a group of practices which will combine to offer (1) expansion of food crop acreage, (2) protection against soil erosion, and (3) continuation of such other soil-building practices as the available funds will permit. The following specifications are based upon the Agricultural Conservation Program Bulletin for the Insular Region approved by the Secretary of Agriculture June 17, 1942.

ELIGIBLE PRACTICES

(Minimum performance under practice No. 1 is a prerequisite to any payment under the 1942 ACP for Puerto Rico.)

FOOD CROP PRODUCTION

Practice No. 1.--For planting the crops listed below for human consumption, payment will be made at the rate of \$4.00 per acre for the

first 5 acres and \$3.00 per acre for the next 20 acres, with a minimum payment of \$4.00 and a maximum payment of \$80.00.

In order to qualify for payment under this practice, the following conditions must be met:

(1) The crops planted must be among these: beans (any type), cowpeas, corn, rice, yams, potatoes (Irish and sweet), gandules (plant crop), tanier, apio, cassaba (yuca), plantain (plant crop), bananas (plant crop).

(2) Not more than 1/3 of the acreage may be planted to any one of the crops listed above except where the land devoted to this practice is less than 3/10 of an acre.

(3) Where these crops are planted on land of 6 percent or more average slope, they must be planted and cultivated along lines deviating not more than 2 percent from contour lines.

(4) Where these crops are planted on land of more than 10 percent average slope, temporary ditches must also be constructed to prevent soil washing, in accordance with the specifications for practice No. 3.

(5) At least 20 percent of the total cropland (excluding sugar-cane and orchards) on the farm must be planted to the crops listed, except that at least 1/10 acre and not more than 25 acres will be required.

(6) Crops must be planted in a manner to utilize the land to the best advantage and to obtain the maximum production. This will include proper preparation of the seed bed, adequate seeding, correct spacing, and sufficient cultivation and attention to bring the crops to maturity. The plants or vines must not be removed from the land on which grown.

(7) Where two or more persons share in the crop or income from a farm, payment will be made to each person who carries out this practice independently of all other persons on the farm.

CONTOUR CULTIVATION

Practice No. 2.--For planting and cultivating land of 2 percent or more slope, along lines deviating not more than 2 percent from contour lines, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 per acre. With the exception of rice, no credit will be given unless the land is planted to intertilled crops; and, in the case of land of more than 10 percent slope, unless practice No. 3 is carried out in conjunction therewith.

TEMPORARY DITCHING

Practice No. 3.--For constructing temporary ditching on fields of 10 percent or more average slope, with suitable outlets, for the diversion of surface water to prevent soil washing, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 per acre.

Temporary ditching does not include any ditching primarily for any purpose other than the prevention of soil washing.

Ditches must be constructed where they are needed to prevent soil washing and must be of sufficient depth and width and of proper slope to provide adequate carrying capacity at a low velocity. In no event will ditches with a slope of more than 4 percent or placed at intervals of more than 10 feet qualify for payment.

It is to be noted that this practice is not applicable to land with a slope of less than 10 percent but is a prerequisite to credit under practices Nos. 1 and 2 on all land of this grade or more.

FOREST MAINTENANCE

Practice No. 4.--For maintaining, protecting, cultivating, and improving, by replanting if necessary, seedling trees on land planted to forest trees under prior agricultural conservation programs, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 per acre.

Seedling trees planted prior to 1942 must be kept free of weeds and brush detrimental to their growth. If necessary, the whole area on which the trees are growing must be adequately fenced to provide protection from grazing animals. Any dead trees must be replaced in order to keep not less than 500 trees growing on each acre.

Practice No. 5.--For maintaining, protecting, cultivating, and improving a stand of forest trees, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 per acre.

Prior approval of the San Juan office of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency must be obtained by a farmer before he carries out this practice if he intends to apply for payment.

To qualify, all grasses, vines, and brush within a radius of 2 feet around each tree must be cut down. Weed trees must be cut out, other trees thinned or pruned, and seedling trees planted, so as to leave at least 200 potential timber trees of desirable species (with a minimum diameter of 3 inches) well distributed over each acre of woodland. If seedling trees have been planted, the area must be fenced in or otherwise protected from grazing animals.

TERRACES AND CATCH PITS IN COFFEE GROVES

Practice No. 6.--For constructing and maintaining during 1942 individual terraces or catch pits in coffee groves, payment will be made at the rate of \$1.00 for each 200 terraces or catch pits.

Individual terraces must include not less than 5 square feet of surface each and must be constructed so as to prevent soil washing. Catch pits must not be less than 3 feet in length and 8 inches in depth.

The construction of either terraces or catch pits on land of less than 2 percent slope will not be regarded as conforming to good farming practice.

PAYMENTS

Allowances. The program has been prepared in such a way as to use the funds available to obtain the maximum amount of conservation that would not otherwise be performed. With this consideration in mind, maximum allowances earnable on individual farms have been set.

In the case of cropland - that is, land which is tilled annually or in a regular rotation or is devoted to bearing or nonbearing orchards other than abandoned orchards - the maximum allowance is \$4.00 per acre for the first 10 acres and \$1.00 per acre for any additional acreage. Land on which sugarcane is growing is excluded from this computation by definition because of the separate program for sugar under the Sugar Act of 1937. Tobacco land, too, is excluded in view of the payments which may be earned by tobacco growers on the basis of tobacco acreage allotments.

In the case of grazing land, all pasture land included in the farm but not included in the cropland is considered in the computation of the maximum allowance. An allowance of 40 cents per acre is made on the first 1,000 acres and 10 cents per acre on any additional acreage.

The allowance for any farm determines the maximum payment that can be made for that farm. For example, the allowance on a farm with 12 acres of cropland and no pasture land would be \$42.00. If the amount earned for the practices carried out came to \$40.00, the farmer would receive \$40.00. On the other hand, if he carried out sufficient practices to earn \$50.00, his payment would be only \$42.00 - the largest allowable payment on a farm containing 12 acres of cropland and no pasture land. (In addition, the payment in either case would be increased in accordance with the schedule shown below.)

When the total allowance calculated for any farm is less than \$15.00, the allowance for that farm shall be increased to \$15.00 if the increase is earned through the performance of forestation practices (Nos. 4 and 5.) It is also provided, that in no case shall the allowance for any farm be less than \$5.00.

Maximum payment. The maximum payment that will be made under any circumstances to any individual, partnership or estate with respect to farms or ranches located exclusively in Puerto Rico is \$10,000. If the agricultural operations of an association, corporation or trust are carried on elsewhere in the United States as well as in Puerto Rico, the total payment on all operations will not exceed the same figure.

Small payment increases. Payments of \$200.00 or less are scaled upwards according to provisions of the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act as follows:

Amount of payment computed	Increase in payment	Amount of payment computed	Increase in payment
\$1.00 to 1.99	\$0.40	\$32.00 to 32.99	\$10.40
2.00 to 2.99	0.80	33.00 to 33.99	10.60
3.00 to 3.99	1.20	34.00 to 34.99	10.80
4.00 to 4.99	1.60	35.00 to 35.99	11.00
5.00 to 5.99	2.00	36.00 to 36.99	11.20
6.00 to 6.99	2.40	37.00 to 37.99	11.40
7.00 to 7.99	2.80	38.00 to 38.99	11.60
8.00 to 8.99	3.20	39.00 to 39.99	11.80
9.00 to 9.99	3.60	40.00 to 40.99	12.00
10.00 to 10.99	4.00	41.00 to 41.99	12.10
11.00 to 11.99	4.40	42.00 to 42.99	12.20
12.00 to 12.99	4.80	43.00 to 43.99	12.30
13.00 to 13.99	5.20	44.00 to 44.99	12.40
14.00 to 14.99	5.60	45.00 to 45.99	12.50
15.00 to 15.99	6.00	46.00 to 46.99	12.60
16.00 to 16.99	6.40	47.00 to 47.99	12.70
17.00 to 17.99	6.80	48.00 to 48.99	12.80
18.00 to 18.99	7.20	49.00 to 49.99	12.90
19.00 to 19.99	7.60	50.00 to 50.99	13.00
20.00 to 20.99	8.00	51.00 to 51.99	13.10
21.00 to 21.99	8.20	52.00 to 52.99	13.20
22.00 to 22.99	8.40	53.00 to 53.99	13.30
23.00 to 23.99	8.60	54.00 to 54.99	13.40
24.00 to 24.99	8.80	55.00 to 55.99	13.50
25.00 to 25.99	9.00	56.00 to 56.99	13.60
26.00 to 26.99	9.20	57.00 to 57.99	13.70
27.00 to 27.99	9.40	58.00 to 58.99	13.80
28.00 to 28.99	9.60	59.00 to 59.99	13.90
29.00 to 29.99	9.80	60.00 to 185.99	14.00
30.00 to 30.99	10.00	186.00 to 199.99	(1)
31.00 to 31.99	10.20	200.00 and over	(2)

(1) Increase to \$200.00

(2) No increase

Rate changes. The rates of allowance and payment as set forth herein may be decreased or increased, as determined by the extent of participation in the program, by as much as 10 percent, or otherwise adjusted to remain within the limits of funds appropriated by Congress.

Application for payment. Any farmer who is participating in the 1942 program should submit a request for inspection through the nearest office of the Agricultural Extension Service before September 15, 1942. The San Juan office of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency will make an effort to reach every farmer in Puerto Rico before March 31, 1943, the final date for filing application for payment.

If an application for a farm is filed within the time prescribed, any producer on the farm who did not sign the application may subsequently apply for his share of the payment provided he does so before the expiration of the applicable appropriation.

In cases where supplemental or adjustment applications are necessary, they may be filed up to April 30, 1943, or, if a check is issued in payment of the original application or notice is given of ineligibility for payment under an original application, up to 30 days after the date of delivery of the check or the notice.

TOBACCO

As under the 1941 Program, acreage allotments for tobacco will be established and payments will be made on the basis of these allotments. Also, deductions will be made from any soil-building or tobacco payment that otherwise would be made for farms on which tobacco is planted in excess of, or in the absence of, acreage allotments. The rates of payment and deduction in connection with these allotments will be established prior to September 1, 1942. A separate leaflet dealing with the tobacco program will be issued at that time. Minimum performance under practice No. 1 of the soil-building practices (see page 2) is a prerequisite to any 1942 tobacco payment.

GENERAL

Eligible applicants. Applications for payment with respect to a farm shall be made by the landlord, tenants and sharecroppers thereon, payment to be divided among them on the basis of the contribution made by each to the soil-building practices concerned.

Appeals. Should any person wish to question any decision of the San Juan office of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency as to his right to a payment or the amount of his payment, he may request in writing a reconsideration of the decision within 15 days after notice thereof has been made available to him. Further appeal may subsequently be made to the Director, Division of Special Programs, Agricultural Adjustment Agency, if made within 15 days after receipt of notice of the decision on the first appeal.

Ineligibility. It is to be understood that no payment will be made to a person who takes any action tending to prevent the accomplishment of the purposes of the program. No application will be approved for payment, therefore, if the applicant has (1) adopted any practices which tend to defeat the purposes of the 1942 or previous agricultural conservation programs, (2) offset in any way the performance for which payment would otherwise be authorized, or (3) adopted any practice found to be contrary to sound conservation practice with respect to forest land or woodland owned or controlled by him. Failure to comply with the required minimum performance for any farm under practice No. 1, as stated herein, shall disqualify such farm for any payment under the Agricultural Conservation Program. Additional information in connection with practices which tend to defeat the purposes of the 1942 program may be obtained by consulting the San Juan office of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, or any Agricultural Extension Service office.

Assignments. Any person who may be entitled to a payment under the 1942 program may assign his interest in the payment as security for cash loaned or advances made for the purposes of financing the making of a crop in 1942. No assignment will be recognized, however, unless it is made in writing on Form ACP-69 in accordance with instructions (ACP-70-Insular) issued by the Agricultural Adjustment Agency. These forms may be obtained from any office of the Agricultural Extension Service or from the Agricultural Adjustment Agency at the address given below.

Inquiries. Inquiries concerning this program may be directed to the Agricultural Adjustment Agency, P. O. Box 4349, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Issued June 23, 1942, with the approval of the Administrator.

F. B. Northrup
Acting Director,
Division of Special Programs

